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Bethel Historical Society



Bethel Grange No. 56, Spring Street, October 16, 1924

SPRING STREET THROUGH THE YEARS

By Sue Farrar

Editor's Note: This paper was presented to the March, 1983 monthly meeting of the Society. Additional information has been included and several errors corrected.

The origins of Spring Street extend back to Eleazer Twitchell who sold a portion of his holdings to Dr. Moses Mason in 1813. All of the present Spring Street properties were once owned by the Doctor, but he sold and in one instance gave parcels to a number of individuals.

Spring Street was born under protest since the County Commissioners forced the Town of Bethel to lay it out in September, 1859. It, however, did not extend to Mason Street as it does today (since Mason Street was not laid out until 1890) but stopped about where Sue Farrar's house is located. The town accepted the remaining portion to Mason Street in 1916.

At the Main Street end is the so called "Grange Hall" property which before 1978 was the site of a building long known as "Pattee's Hall". It was built by Moses Pattee, prominent businessman who had large holdings in both Bethel and Albany. Constructed in 1859 on land obtained from Dr. Mason, the hall was for many years the center of Bethel's social and political life. Here during the Civil War the Ladies Union Aid Society met weekly to prepare medical supplies for Union soldiers. Countless socials, fraternal order meetings, and political gatherings were held here. Moses Pattee died in 1874 (his estate was valued as follows: Real Estate \$2000, Goods and Chattels \$952.50, Rights and Credits \$1256.48). His widow Mary (she later married again a man by the name of Brackett) continued to live on the premises until her death at the age of 87 in 1906. During her long life there was once a store on the first floor and she had an

apartment on the second floor next to the large meeting hall (Gerry Morgan later lived here for years). Following her death Dr. Francis B. Tuell, the town dentist, who was Mrs. Brackett's executor, sold the hall for \$1350 to Bethel Grange #56 which held meetings and other occasions here until it ceased to exist after 1940. Town meetings in Odeon Hall were adjourned at noon for many years so that voters could eat a bountiful meal prepared by the Grange before returning to town business in the afternoon. During World War II the American Legion Brigade, later the State Guard Reserve, conducted training sessions here. After the war, the premises were sold to Leslie Davis who converted it to six apartments. Forever lost was the wonderful spring dance floor in the meeting hall on the second floor. But a number of people obtained very satisfactory housing including: Bob & Virginia Keniston, Blake and Rachael MacKay, Charles and Reona Heino, Earl and Nell Cummings, Fred and Matilde Cummings, Raymond and Josephine Tripp, Gardiner and Helen Smith, Lee and Virginia Hutchins, Charles and Catherine Hamlin, Emery Vail and Edward Ferron. Albert Buck purchased the building from the L. E. Davis Lumber Company in 1967. He sold to Jeffrey Prest in 1975. By this time the structure had begun to deteriorate and it was decided to raze it in 1978. Following its removal the land was purchased by Michael and Sue O'Donnell on December 20, 1978. Today the O'Donnells use the site for fire wood storage and it bears little resemblance to its former tumultuous past.

FAYE TAYLOR MEMORIAL ART SHOW

MAY 28 10 - 4

DR. MOSES MASON
194th BIRTHDAY PARTY

MAY 29 2 - 4

EVERYONE WELCOME

The present Gallant house was built before the Civil War by Samuel F. Gibson who married Moses Pattee's daughter Abb. She died in 1864 and later that year he married Agnes M. Ayer, daughter of James and Cyrene Ayer (it seems likely that she was named for Dr. Mason's wife, Agnes M. Mason). Gibson was a lawyer who came to Bethel Hill from Denmark, Maine and had a law office next to his house. According to the 1880 Atlas it was between his house and the next one, the present home of Sue Farrar. He died in 1889 without a will and insolvent. There exists a detailed inventory of his estate at the time of his death including the contents of his law office. (A copy has been obtained from the Register of Probate and anyone interested is invited to examine the list in the Society archives since it provides a good idea of what houses and law offices of the period contained). After his second wife's death the house passed to his son Samuel, then of Los Angeles, California in 1910 and later to his daughter Martha in 1915. On August 10, 1926 Fannie Bisbee Lovejoy paid \$2000 for the property. She sold to Alanson Tyler and wife. Mr. Tyler framed pictures, some of which are undoubtedly intact today. From the Tyler family the property passed for \$1285 in 1941 to Persis Alice Gallant, late wife of the present owner.

The home of Sue Farrar was built prior to 1875 by Edmund Merrill, Bethel's well-known builder of the era. It was first occupied by G.M.C. Bishop but on November 26, 1875 Merrill sold it to William O. Straw for \$600. Less than a year later Straw signed it over to his wife, his first cousin, the former Agnes Hastings (they had pledged at the time of their marriage not to have children) "the same premises on which I now live" for "love & affection & other good considerations". The Straws were listed as living there on the 1880 *Atlas* but in 1883 went to Montana to live for nearly twenty years. It was from Eubet, Montana that Mrs. Straw sold the property on November 17, 1890 for \$1100 to Amos Frost of Newry. Mr. & Mrs. Straw would later return to Bethel and buy the house next to the present Moses Mason Museum where they lived until they died. Upon Mrs. Straw's death in 1923, the former Enoch Foster law office and \$10,000 was willed to the Bethel public library and forms a part of the structure today. Mr. Frost sold the Farrar property to Mary F. Farwell for \$1000 on November 12, 1897. From Mary Farwell it passed to Martha E. Kendall in 1926 and to Irving and Carrie Frost French who lived there for many years. From them it passed to Esther L. Williamson of Upton and Agnes Sweatt of Errol, New Hampshire. They sold it to Addison Saunders in 1959 who in turn sold it to the present owners Charles and Susan C. Farrar on June 24, 1960.

Between this property and the previous one is a right of way that today belongs to Gardiner Gorman whose house is on Mason Street. This set of buildings was built by Abiel Chandler in the 1880's and was called "The Alpine House" which became a popular resort for summer visitors. Before Mason Street was laid out in 1890 it was reached by this route off Spring Street. I remember Ethel Bisbee after a heavy snow storm pounding the little path down on her snow shoes for the children who would be using this route on their way to school that morning.

The former Bethel Inn Garages were built in 1930 by William Bingham II and reflect a French chateau style of architecture. (Edna Bean York remembers that when her family arrived on Spring Street in 1923 this area was pasture land with apple trees). Until the 1960's both buildings were used by the Bethel Inn as garages for the vehicles of guests with the chauffeurs and employees obtaining quarters on the second floor. Gould Academy now uses the one next to Blake MacKay's house for its maintenance department. The other across the street is today owned by

Robert Chadbourne who uses it for vehicle storage and rental. Muriel Butters reminded me that there were gas pumps up at the garages on the Bisbee side of the road to take care of the chauffeurs' and guests' motor vehicles.

Next to it on Spring Street is the bungalow style home of Tom and Margaret Wheeler. It was long the residence of Ernest and Ethel Bisbee and Alice Ballard who boarded with them. Both Miss Ballard and Mrs. Bisbee were long-time teachers in the community. Mr. Bisbee was for many years first Selectman of Bethel and a coal dealer. He died in 1959 and his wife passed away in 1972. Miss Ballard died in 1974. The property once belonged to Agnes Straw who sold it to Amos Frost in 1890. It was also transferred as was the property across the street to Mary F. Farwell in 1896. Mary Farwell sold it to Ernest Bisbee in 1922 who transferred it to his wife in 1924. There it remained for nearly fifty years. The house was built about 1926. In 1974 Mrs. Bisbee's executor Peryland K. Philbrick sold it to Susan Saunders O'Donnell who sold it to the Wheelers in 1979.

Sitting on her porch on a summer afternoon, Mrs. Bisbee would reminisce. She told me that before the garages were built she and her husband were approached by Mr. Bingham's representatives with a plan and asked if they found it desirable. Mr. Bingham did not want to do anything to undermine property values; therefore the garages were designed with two towers, chateau style, so as to be pleasing to the eye. I enjoy looking out over my yard at them; they certainly are not an eyesore. Mrs. Bisbee also told me that the maple trees in front of her house were dug up by the gardener at the Bethel Inn and planted according to the four points of the compass. The attractive oak tree in my yard that my children lived in while growing up was grown from an acorn brought here from Florida.

The present Muriel Bean Butters house was built on land transferred by Dr. Moses Mason to Galen C. Holt, a carpenter and his wife Maria on September 17, 1857 for \$150. Holt sold the property to James Burbank in 1865 for \$1200 which indicates that the house was built prior to that date. Since it was part of the dowry of Louisa J. Burbank, Levi R. Paine of Newry sold it to Fannie R. Chapman in 1882 for \$500. She and her husband Edward P. Chapman sold it for \$750 to Harriet Rich of Greenwood later that year. Harriet Rich sold the premises to N. F. Brown for \$800 on February 25, 1892. Beginning in 1893, Brown was long a hardware merchant on Main Street on the site of the present Brooks Brothers Hardware Store. A trustee of the Bethel Savings Bank and Gould Academy, he was Supervisor of Schools for many years. He died in 1917. When his widow died in 1920 the property was sold by her executor Ethel Hazelton to Alfred and Mary Adams for \$3000. From the Adams family it was sold on May 17, 1923 to Herbert I. Bean, who was a carpenter and later a well-known local dealer in guns and ammunition. After his death in 1952 the property passed to his widow Maud. Following her death in 1971 it became the property of her daughter Muriel who lives there today.

Maude Hunt's house sits on land given by Dr. Moses Mason on November 22, 1856 to Moses Pattee. Pattee conveyed it to Mary Waterhouse, his second wife, in 1860. From her it was sold to Sarah F. Davis in 1866 and then to Robert C. Thayer in 1867. Mr. Thayer sold it to George and Mary Haskell of Pueblo, Colorado in 1883. In 1902 it was purchased by Favilla A. Brown and Lizzie S. Young for \$1100 and a mortgage of \$317.25 held by N. F. Brown who lived next door. The property was transferred to Ellen M. Chandler in 1909 who died in 1911 and the property passed to Eliphet Blake who died in 1934 leaving an estate totaling \$2074.82. His heir was A. Judson Blake of Brigh-

ton, Vermont who sold it to Frank A. Hunt on May 10, 1941. Mr. Hunt, who died in 1959, was long a deputy sheriff in Oxford County. His widow Maude owns and occupies the property today. There was an apartment upstairs which has had a number of tenants.

At one time the apartment house (former Pattee's Hall) was filled with families with many children. There was no yard for them to play in. The other homes on the street had four and five children each, so there were over twenty youngsters playing kick ball in the street. Since it was dangerous, I took up a petition signed by the neighbors and went to the Selectmen, asking that it be made a one-way street. Permission was immediately granted.

Spring Street will always be home to me since it's full of memories and wonderful neighbors ever ready to help when you need them, yet always respecting your privacy.

I recall the annual summer footraces on the street between my children, Michelle, Doug, Lisa and Paul — with Michelle always winning on the *short sprints*! I also remember vividly the barbecues, pot luck suppers and sitting on the back stoop watching the children climb the old oak tree. (There was never a tree big enough to climb in our home in Phoenix). The rule was to reach to the first limb without any help. From that point on they could climb to the top — if they dared! Now it's the grandchildren that I watch. Chris, Emily and Amos have "graduated". Naomi may succeed this summer. Anna will have to wait a few more years.

It's the street where I live and although I love to roam around in my little camper, it's the street to which I will always come home.

MAINE KIMBALLS TO MEET AT MOSES MASON HOUSE JUNE 18

Maine descendants of Richard Kimball (Ipswich, MA, 1637-1676) will hold their fourth annual reunion Saturday, June 18 at the Moses Mason House, beginning at ten a.m. Chairman Gordon L. Kimball of Gray urges anyone with a Kimball ancestor to try and attend in order to meet his or her cousins. There will be help available in researching one's ancestry in addition to a program and business meeting.

SOCIETY SPONSORS FILM SERIES

A film series, "The American Short Story" sponsored by the Society with the support of the Maine Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities in cooperation with the Film Services Division of the Maine State Library was held weekly from February 23 to April 13.

DR. MOSES MASON FEATURED IN STATE EXHIBIT

An exhibit "Doorways to Statehood: Maine Towns, 1783-1820" sponsored by a special grant to the Maine Humanities Council from the National Endowment for the Humanities opened at the York Institute, Saco on April 5. The exhibit consists of a kiosk with one of the sections focusing on Bethel as an inland agricultural Maine town during this period. There is also a high security section on ten representative men and women of this era. Dr. Moses Mason (1789-1866) was selected as one of ten and is positioned at the beginning of the exhibit. The exhibit will travel to the Bowdoin Museum of Art on June 30, to the Bangor Historical Society on September 7 and to the Payson Gallery, Westbrook College, Portland on December 19.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

If ecology is the relationship between man and his environment of material resources, then the ecology of our historical society is the environment of historical resources in Bethel and the White Mountains area. As a part of the area's social structure, we view our environment through many sets of looking glasses of various labels. For instance, we have "historical" glasses. For the historian there are artifacts of our past to discover, interpret and preserve. There are "business" looking glasses for examining the same environment. For the person in business, there are goods and services which if properly selected and priced create a market environment that attracts customers to a store and collectively into our community's shops. And, as a common factor both historian and businessman depend on cash resources to enable themselves to reach certain goals.

Having a foot in each realm, so to speak, by my connections with the historical society and the chamber of commerce feeds me an interesting mixture of views that are relevant to both groups.

Many of the local community's businesses rely partly on the historical appeal of our environment to attract customers to their respective stores, albeit an indirect appeal. The museum and our historical society likewise partly depend on the business environment (shops, restaurants and inns) to attract people into the Bethel area, thence to historical society activities and eventually to become members.

Through the joint efforts of the historical society and the chamber of commerce, we have worked at a modest pace and very modest price for the past few years to present the Bethel area in an honest but appealing fashion. Our potential customers are people who appreciate natural scenic beauty and can relate this aspect of leisure pastime to an intellectual appreciation of how our fore-fathers strived to erect substantial, tastefully designed and constructed buildings for home and institution alike. These families of the past had an eye to our present and future. The material environment we inherited is now ours to maintain, rearrange or tear down and completely do over. Interestingly though, many who have chosen the latter course for their own communities are now traveling to Bethel to "restore their soul" if you will.

Our Bethel environment is a source of pride and beauty to hundreds who live here and to many more hundreds who have visited. By "selling" it, as is, to an appreciative public, we can spread our influence in a positive way, extolling man's better nature, and at the same time receiving the benefits of a little cash to sustain our efforts in the world of the 1980's.

DONALD G. BENNETT

SOCIETY HOLDS ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY FEBRUARY 22

The ninth annual Heritage Day was held on February 22 with a wide variety of craft exhibits and demonstrations as well as an art show, historical film series, special tours of the museum and a cherry pie eating contest featured. As always during this special event, all visitors to the museum were treated to Indian pudding served hot from the fireplace in the winter kitchen. The Society is very grateful to the many volunteers who make this day such a special time each year.

KIMBALL FAMILIES OF THE BETHEL AREA

By Elizabeth Mason Carter

In September 1794, two years before Bethel's incorporation Asa Kimball (born in Andover, MA in 1738), a resident of Bridgton since 1785, purchased the property of Samuel Ingalls, formerly owned by first settler, Jonathan Keyes, in what is now known as East Bethel (today the Olson and Hastings farms). Asa and wife Hulda (Tapley) had also lived in Boxford, MA and St. John, New Brunswick prior to Bridgton.

Asa had bought a fine hillside farm on Brigham's Hill, Upper Ridge, Bridgton and established a 300 foot rope walk there which he ran with his sons. While an excellent agriculturist, his energies led to the purchase of 400 acres of timberland on Crotched Pond, now Highland Lake. The Pond served as his mill pond after he dammed the lower end of it and built a sawmill there. The area (now Shorey Park, Bridgton) as developed by Asa Kimball proved him to be the first industrialist of the town. The money he made from this enterprise led to seeking other opportunities which he saw in the fertile Androscoggin River valley.

Eventually joined by six of his nine children, Asa arrived in Bethel just as the population was beginning to grow rapidly. He was then about fifty seven years of age. While it is not known exactly where he first lived, local recorded history places him on the present Olson farm although recent evidence suggests it may well have been on today's site of Robert D. Hastings' house. When he grew older he lived with his grandson Moses Stone Kimball, son of his son Jacob, in that area. Asa's namesake, later called "Deacon Asa" (born in 1767 in Andover, MA) married Phebe Foster of Bridgton. He lived, possibly from 1800 on, in the little red house across from Robert Hastings, recently restored by his son, Robert Warren Hastings. When Asa and Phebe became infirm they moved across the road to be cared for by son, "Captain Asa" and his wife who had built a house on the site where it is believed Jonathan Keyes had a small house (the ell of Robert D. Hastings' house now stands here). "Deacon Asa" and wife had four children, the eldest of whom became the owner of the land nearby, including part of what later became and still is the Howe family farm. His name was Moses Foster Kimball (b. 1790) whose six children included Mary Ann who married Eben Goddard, a Rumford resident (and ancestor of Mrs. Mary Folsom Champe, Rumford Center and Estella Martin of Rumford Point), Charles Adams Kimball (b. 1816), later owner of much land in Rumford and father of three children by his wife Elizabeth Abbott; William King Kimball (b. 1820), married Frances Rawson, studied at Bridgton Academy and Harvard College, served as a lawyer in Canton, and elected to the Legislature when only 21 (he later became County Attorney, Clerk of Courts, U.S. Marshall and a Brigadier General in the Civil War, settling on Paris Hill in the well-known "Old Brick"). The fifth child of Moses F. was Dolly Keys who married Major Gideon A. Hastings of Bethel Village and the sixth child Arabella Carter married Alvin Goodwin, also of Bethel Village.



A Kimball neighborhood, East Bethel, c. 1895, Irving Kimball photo.

Besides Moses Foster, "Deacon Asa" had a son known as "Captain Asa", a War of 1812 veteran, who married Abigail Bartlett, and a daughter Emma, who married Edmund Bean. His fourth child was Nancy who married Porter Kimball of Rumford first and after his death Peter Virgin, an attorney. Porter and brother-in-law Moses F. Kimball started the Kimball Ferry at Rumford Point where both lived.

Eldest son of Asa Sr. was Samuel (b. 1761) who married Hannah Clark of St. John, N.B. They came to Bethel with their six children to live, possibly where the late Elmer Trask did at one time. Their oldest son, Peter married Sophie Wheeler of Rumford, and built the house where Richard Kimball lives today. Richard's children are the fifth generation of Kimballs to live on this site. His grandfather Charles Mellen (b. 1839), a selectman and member of the Maine Legislature, married Mary Bartlett and they had five children: Irving (b. 1875) became a photographer of unusual skill moved from Bethel Hill to Boston; Lillian (b. 1876) married Roscoe Clark of Bethel and they had two sons, one of whom, Hugh Mason Clark (age 81) now lives in Pine Hill, NJ; Rose Rawson (b. 1880) married Frank Frost of Lisbon who managed the E.L. Tebbets Mill in Locke Mills and then one in Kingfield; Hester (b. 1884) married Norman Sanborn and they had three daughters (Hazel, now of Pike, NY; Faye, Charter member of the Society who married George Taylor and had two sons, Kent and Bruce both of Portland; Mary, life member of the Society who married Donald Calderwood of Mesa Arizona); Ceylon Mellen (b. 1892) married Doris Davis and had five children including son Richard who lives on the place today and C. Mellen who lives in Locke Mills and married Jeannette Kimball a descendant of Jacob Tapley Kimball.

"Captain Asa" and Abigail had four children, two of whom died young. Their daughter Emma (b. 1828) married (1849) John Decatur Hastings, who built the big house on the opposite side of the road from the red house and which since that date has been the home for son George Kimball and grandson Robert Decatur now in this eighty fourth year and still actively involved in the operation of the fine dairy farm with his son Robert Warren, a graduate of the University of Maine. Mrs. Robert D. Hastings (Florence) is a talented craftswoman, well-known for her beautiful rugs and stencilling. Their three daughters are Virginia (Gamble) of Hanover, NH, Mary Alice (Bancroft) of Paris Hill and Ann (Morton) of Hanover, Maine.

John Decatur Hastings and his wife also had a daughter Mary who married William Clarence Howe of Kimball Hill, East Bethel. They moved to Waltham, MA where their two children were born. The eldest, Clarence Decatur, graduated from MIT, taught civil engineering at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, became the head of his own engineering firm based at Port Arthur, Ontario where he built grain elevators and harbor facilities throughout Canada and in various parts of the world and served twenty two years in the Canadian cabinet. Clarence had a sister Agnes who married Hoyland Bettinger and had two daughters one of whom (Mary Lee Harris) is a life member of the Society.

Clarence (C.D.) Howe had spent his boyhood summers at East Bethel and whenever possible came back to visit. He is undoubtedly the most distinguished Kimball descendant from the East Bethel Kimball families. The Society is pleased to have some of his children as members.

While "Captain Asa" fought without injury in the War of 1812, he later required amputation of a leg, which he bore with the help of some rum. Asa Kimball Sr., first Kimball settler in Bethel is buried in an unmarked grave in the rear right hand corner of Bartlett Cemetery (near the Olson farm). His son "Deacon Asa" and grandson "Captain Asa" are buried in East Bethel Cemetery beside the 1830 church. It is said that "Deacon Asa" and his wife were at one time the only Baptists present in Bethel. Asa Sr. was an incorporator of the West Parish Congregational Church in 1799. His son Israel and grandson Israel Jr. and their families were active in this Church.

It is not definitely known where Asa and son operated their Bethel rope walk. One source always maintained that it was at Middle Intervale but as their land was at East Bethel and Israel Sr. did not come to Bethel until 1820, it seems unlikely that the rope walk was there.

Asa and Hulda's daughter Hannah married Timothy Bean and they lived in the house (long the Farwell farm) now owned by Maud Danforth.

Asa Sr.'s son Jacob (b. possibly in New Brunswick) married Emma Stone and came from Portland in 1824 to live on the hill which took his name. On Kimball Hill he farmed and he and his wife had eleven children, including Jacob Tapley who had eight children of his own and lived on the Hill for many years.

Jedidiah, Israel Sr.'s next to the youngest son (b. 1809) married (1836) Mary Ann Mason (b. 1816) was a farmer and active in town affairs. He and his wife were Baptists and had seven children who married Clark Caswell. Their only child was Lena Maud who married Carey Stevens of Middle Intervale. The Stevens family is the only family of Kimball descent now living in Middle Intervale.

Asa Sr.'s fifth child Israel (b. 1769) married Phebe Hazen in 1794 at Rowley, MA. Parents of nine children, they resided at Bridgton until moving to Bethel in 1820. Israel and Israel Jr. (b. 1795) bought extensive acreage at Middle Intervale. Israel Jr. built his own house beside his father's which burned in 1933. Israel Sr.'s house (later owned by grandson Israel Grenville and great grandson, Benjamin Webber) is still standing (now for sale) next to Richard Carter's house. The farm land is now part of the Carter farm.

Israel Sr.'s youngest son Ira Crocker (b. 1816) married first Joanne Rowe (d. 1847) and second Salome Chapman of Bethel. He and Salome had eight children. A prominent merchant in Bethel, Ira C. Kimball was the leading spirit in developing the residential area on Park Street that bears his name today. Society member Ernestine Philbrook Jackson of Nashua, NH and Songo Pond is a descendant of this line.

Asa Sr.'s daughter Hepsibah (b. 1798) married Ebenezer Eames of Bethel and Ruth Emery Verville of Bethel is a descendant of this line.

Israel Grenville (b. 1826) married Lavinia Dustin and had four children including Alice Maud (b. 1853) who married Augustus Philbrook of Shelburne who inherited from his father the farm inn now famous as the oldest continuously operating inn in the U.S. by one family. Another child of Israel G.'s Mary Josephine (b. 1857) married Frank G. Blake of Bethel.

Israel Grenville Kimball's son Benjamin Webber (b. 1861), a carpenter, married Anna Berry of Sumner and lived on his father's farm in Middle Intervale until 1904 when he moved to Bellows Falls, VT. He later returned inheriting the former Lucinda Chase farm in Middle Intervale. Three of his four children lived to adulthood: Edith, Alice and Lawrence. Edith (b. 1894) married John Howe of East Bethel and had two children, Rodney and Agnes (Haines). Alice (b. 1897), a nurse, married Oliver Fales of Dorchester, MA and they had three sons, including Walter (b. 1927) MIT graduate, engineer at Chrysler and current President of the Kimball Family Association of America. Lawrence (b. 1901) graduated from Bates and Middlebury Colleges, married Beatrice Milliken, daughter of Maine Governor Carl Milliken and taught French for many years at Bates.

Israel Jr.'s 6th child Hebsibah (b. 1834) married William Mason in 1865 and lived on what is today Sunset Farm (then known as Willow Grove Farm). They had four children one of whom Herman (1874-1961) succeeded his father on the family farm. Herman owned with his brother a mill (now J.A. Thurston) at Hale, Maine (near Rumford named by them for their grandmother Eunice Hale Mason). Herman married Pauline Dodge (1882-1973) and they had one daughter Elizabeth (b.

1907), widow of Stanley Carter, a retired social worker currently living in West Bethel. Mrs. Carter was one of the founders of the National Kimball Association.

Hebsibah's sister Susannah (1837-1916) never married and joined her widowed sister Harriet (Sanborn) (1840-1927) in running the family farm many years in Middle Intervale (formerly Israel Jr.'s).

A local harnessmaker at Rumford Point was descended from the original Richard's son Benjamin. Alexander Kimball (b. 1809) son of Obadiah (b. 1778, Concord, NH) married Susan Eastman of Fryeburg. They lived in Rumford and Randall Bennett, long associated with the Bethel Historical Society, is from this family.

With the exception of Obadiah's line the Kimballs in the Bethel area follow this line: Richard (b. 1595), Richard (b. 1623), John (b. 1645), Richard (b. 1673), Jacob (b. 1700), Asa (b. 1738). From this Asa they are descendants of Asa (b. 1767), Israel (b. 1769), Samuel (b. 1761) or Jacob (b. 1800, d. 1893).

There were, however, Kimballs not only in East Bethel, Locke Mills, and Rumford but some in Albany, Maine, coming there from South Waterford where Isaac (b. 1742 at Temple, NH) settled before his son Jonathan (b. 1773) moved to Albany. Jonathan's son Wilder Bowers (b. 1809) and grandson Thomas Green (1845-1910) lived here as well. Thomas, a brick mason lived on the Crocker Pond Road near Songo Pond. He and his second wife Martha Burris (1849-1916) had six children, including Abner (1881-1952) and Mary Elizabeth (1885-1967) who married Herman Brown. Abner was a farmer and trader and became very well-known as the owner of Abner's Dance Pavilion near his home. Abner married Bertha Burris and they had five children including Celia (b. 1904) who married Charles Gorman and Albert (b. 1908) who lives on the road to West Bethel.

Mary Elizabeth's children were Richard who married Doris Morton and had two children, Beatrice (b. 1902) who married Albert Grover, and Gardener who married Marie Chapman. Gardner and Marie had one son, Leland, who married Barbara Doherty. They had two children Jeffrey who married Margaret Churchill and State Representative Karen Brown. Mary Kimball married for her second husband Euberto Brown and had two children including Martha who married William Von Zintl and for many years operated the well-known Bethel restaurant "Martha's".

Another line of Thomas Green Kimball is that Leslie Kimball who married Maud Emery and carried on successful farming and lumbering operations in Albany. They had ten children including Ralph (1903-1972) who married Alice Hunter and had four daughters.

This essay has been made possible with help from Alice Kimball, Celia Kimball Gorman and Robert D. Hastings.

William B. Lapham's *History of Bethel*, Eva Bean's *East Bethel Road*, Stuart Martin's *New Pennacook Folks*, Leonard A. Morrison and Stephen P. Sharples, *History of the Kimball Family Association of America, 1634-1897*, and Eula M. Shorey, Editor, *History of Bridgton, Maine 1768-1968* have been of particular use and may be consulted for further details.

SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Donald G. Bennett, President; Alden Kennett, Vice President; Mary C. Keniston, Secretary; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Treasurer; Trustees: Edith Eaton Eddy, Helen Morton, Catherine Newell, Ronald Snyder, Willard Wight

MEMBERSHIP FOR 1983*

HONORARY

Mrs. Elizabeth Mason Carter, West Bethel; Mrs. Floribel B. Haines, Bethel.

LIFE

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IN MEMORIAM

Died, January 1, 1983, Starr D. Seguin of Bryant Pond and Gorham, New Hampshire, longtime member and generous donor.

Died, January 22, 1983, Sadie Brooks, who had been a member since 1981.

Died, January 23, 1983, Leon Ferrand of Gilead, a member since 1976.

Died, April 25, 1983, Sylvia S. Conroy of Bethel, new life member.

Died, May 10, 1983, Warren Percival of Andover, sustaining member.

EDITOR'S CORNER

For some years the Society has been somewhat casual about sending the newsletter to members who had not kept their dues current. Eventually most paid and/or contributed to the endowment while others advanced to the higher categories of life, patron or contributing. This allowed the Society to cover the costs of producing and mailing the newsletter. But with steadily rising postage and production costs this can no longer be the case if the present dues structure is to be maintained. (It is well to remember that the Society is one of the few organizations to retain the same level of dues participation for more than ten years while actually increasing membership benefits.) Effective with this issue a blue and red dot system will be established. A blue dot on the mailing label indicates that the member's dues are late and the next issue will be the last to be mailed unless dues are paid. A red dot means that this issue is the last issue to be received and your name will be removed from the mailing list unless immediate payment is made. Membership information is always included with each issue of the newsletter on page seven. We regret that this procedure is necessary but hope it will prove successful in ensuring that everyone benefitting will be pulling their share of the load.

SRH

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(Continued on page 8)

Join the Bethel Historical Society dedicated to preserving and interpreting the local past.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) free admission to the museum | (5) quarterly newsletter |
| (2) special discounts at museum store | (6) reduced course fees |
| (3) preferred rate for meeting room rental | (7) voting rights in the Society |
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-----Life over 55 years \$50.00 single

-----Life over 55 years \$75.00 couple

-----Life under 55 years \$100.00 single

-----Life under 55 years \$150.00 couple

BOOK REVIEW

Henry Warren, et al., *THE HISTORY OF WATERFORD, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE* (Portland: Hoyt, Fogg & Donham, 1879). Reprinted, 1982 by the Waterford Historical Society, 371 pp., \$10 plus postage.

The Waterford Historical Society has performed a most valuable service to the cause of local history by making available another volume, long out of print, the Warren history of that town. And it has done so with a fine hard cover edition that sells for only ten dollars — a truly remarkable feat in today's inflation plagued book market.

Here is faithfully reprinted a history of the town's first hundred years, including the documents relating to the town's incorporation in 1797 and the story of its early development divided into specific chapters. There is also over eighty pages of genealogical data.

As a local history of its time, it certainly is better than most, attempting some analysis and providing certain perspectives on events. Moreover it is a useful reference source for anyone interested in the history of Oxford County since the first section provides many details on the development of Western Maine, some of which can be found nowhere else.

The Waterford Society is to be congratulated for a project well-done.

SRH

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STUDENTS

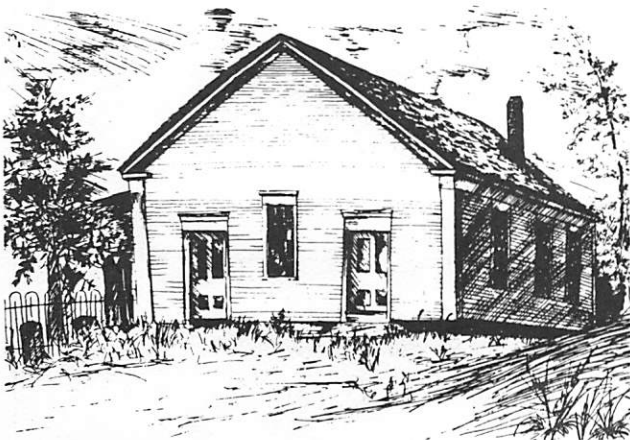
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*Underlined members have known Kimball ancestry.

The Bethel Historical Society

P.O. Box 12

Bethel, Maine 04217



East Bethel Church c. 1830

Published quarterly by the Bethel Historical Society, Stanley R. Howe, Editor. Please address all inquiries and suggestions to Editor, Bethel Historical Society Newsletter, Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Sylvia Conroy, Bethel. Mrs. Conroy will be ninety this year.

Dana and Barbara Douglass, Bethel. Now retired, Mr. & Mrs. Douglass operate a "Bed and Breakfast" for guests in their historic former Twitchell home in Mayville.

Robert D. and Florence B. Hastings, Bethel. Both retired, Mr. & Mrs. Hastings have long been active in the community and in the Society.

James E. Hutchins, Bethel. A member of the Society since 1978, Mr. Hutchins is employed in the accounting department of P.H. Chadbourne Company.

Robert and Virginia Keniston, Bethel. Members of the Society since 1970, Mr. Keniston is an engineer with Diamond International in Peru, Maine and Mrs. Keniston is head librarian at the Bethel Public Library.

E. Louise Lincoln, Bethel. A former treasurer of the Society, Mrs. Lincoln is also a former State Representative and Clerk of the Maine House of Representatives. She is currently the Society's bookkeeper.

Leslie Noyes, Bethel. A retired farmer, Mr. Noyes' late wife Bernice was a charter member of the Society.

Harry and Eleanor Parsons, Albany, Maine. Both retired, Mr. & Mrs. Parsons have been members of the Society since 1980 and generous donors.

Edith K. Robertson, Bethel. A member of the Gould Academy Class of 1933, Mrs. Robertson recently returned to Bethel.

Stephen T. Seames, Locke Mills. Long active in the Society, Mr. Seames has been a generous donor.

William P. Bartlett, Dover-Foxcroft. Mr. Bartlett is a descendant of the Bethel Bartlett family.

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